



# Matt Garrett

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Are you now, or have you ever been, a union member? If yes, when, where and what union were you affiliated with?  
 Currently a 28 year member of Teamsters Local 455. In my 21st year as Senior Shop Steward for the Longmont Center for United Parcel Service.

What would be your priorities as an elected official? What policies or coalitions do you see yourself leading?  
 Appropriate, reasonable economic development-focusing on local, small businesses so they can provide viable wages; transportation & infrastructure build out; addressing the RTD issue; community cohesiveness; reasonable transition to renewable, sustainable energy sources & trying to figure out this fracking issue!

Of the policies and coalitions that you have prioritized, where do you see Labor being a key stakeholder and how do you plan to engage us on these issues?  
 Obviously, I've seen the huge benefits of organized labor! Fantastic wages, job protections, healthcare, pension, etc.! Honestly, I've also seen some of the negatives. As corporations continue to make record profits, who do think buys all the products & services they produce or provide? Higher wages allow for more buying. If the gap widens between economic classes, no one will be able to buy the products & services! Both sides need each other. Businesses cannot outsource or eliminate jobs & then expect to have a population that can afford to live in areas & contribute economically. Workers who build the homes, put in infrastructure, produce the renewable energy products & staff all ranges of services cannot do so if they are not well compensated.

For non-City of Boulder candidates: City employees, who provide critical public services, lack the rights that most take for granted: the right to form a union and negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions with their employer. They do not automatically have the right to collectively bargain. How would you address this issue?  
 Allow for those who want to organize do so with protections against retaliation, which can take many forms, obvious & not so obvious. This, to me, is the key component in the process. Fear of retaliation in ways that cannot be easily identified are huge hurdles for even the most bold & determined. I see this first hand almost daily. UPS is an absolutely wonderful company to work for & I'm extremely proud to say so, but they can be remarkably ridiculous! They have a tough competitive environment, so I understand some of the policies & procedures, but at some point, enough is enough. City employees are people, too & ought to have the same rights as any. It is their critical services which are their greatest bargaining advantage. If it's important & critical, respect it in all ways. I am somewhat one-sided on this issue & would need much more economic data to insure that changes or future changes to this current environment are reasonable & in the best interest of all affected. In the response below, it is difficult to know how to respond.

In your first term, would you work with BALC to sponsor a policy granting collective bargaining rights to city employees?

Yes

No, I would support a collective bargaining policy, but unable to sponsor

Privatization of public services can reduce city expenditures, but often result in poorer quality services and lower wages for service employees. Under what circumstances would you advocate against the privatization of public

I would not support privatization of certain services such as street, road & infrastructure build out or maintenance or issuing of public records, permits, planning or zoning, etc. There are many things that government simply needs to control & service as it involves gathering of information & a broader view of the public impact. Privatizing some services is too focused on just that service or product without a fuller understanding of the overall impact & all the information

services? If so, what tangible steps would you take to prevent this from happening?	that goes in to making any decisions. I would not support ordinances or policy that takes those services away from those who have the greater access to all the necessary information.
The right to freely organize a union	Yes with reservations or Conditions
The right to collectively bargain	Yes with Reservations or Conditions
The right to wages and benefits that improve the living standards of families	Yes
The right to full equality on the job	Yes
The right to a safe workplace and decent working conditions	Yes
The right to speak and be heard, without punishment	Yes
The right to a pension and a healthy retirement	Yes
The right to strike when necessary	Yes
Would you support the Use of Best Value metrics, as opposed to lowest responsible bidder for vendors supplying the City with goods or services?	Absolutely Best Value Metrics, as I understand it.
Would you support creation of a Local Minimum Wage by CityCouncil?	I'd need more concrete data to see how this would affect the overall business community. It goes back to my position statement on workers needing viable wages to live in & economically support there communities without putting certain businesses at risk of failing. It certainly has merit.
Would you support licensing requirements for marijuana and hemp retail and grows that encourages high labor standards and favorable treatment of union shops?	Yes. Huge potential for abuses given the business model.
Would you support a state-wide employee paid family leave policy?	Possibly, with certain conditions. This has to have much more information to answer effectively, but people do need to be able to take leave without fear of job loss in many circumstances. I've had to, myself.
Your city has an affordable housing crisis. What steps would take to address this problem?	Properly incentivize developers to provide it. Restrict any further open space purchases as this has already walled Longmont in-check out the Open Space Master Plan on the Longmont City website. We're are almost entirely surrounded by open space land that cannot be used, forcing planners & developers in to a real problem & I think, contributing to housing costs escalating because that which can be built on, has greater value.
Why do you believe it is in the best interests of the BALC and its members to endorse your candidacy?	I've had first hand experience in this area like none other, not even close. Decisions are made on personal experiences & this gives me a huge, personal & business related advantage. When it comes to the At-Large race, specifically, I can assure you I'm sympathetic to your goals while having insight the others have to guess at. There is no way I could have remained a steward for 21+years without advocating for worker rights & protections.
I have finished the Questionnaire, and I am ready to submit my final copy:	YES